

MAINE REPORT ON MONDAY

PROBABLY TO BE SENT TO CONGRESS ON THAT DAY.

It will arrive in Washington to-morrow and be considered in the Cabinet Meeting on Friday—Efforts to Get It Committed Without Debate in Both Houses—A Simple Letter of Transmittal Without Recommendations—The President Not Yet Received to Reconcile Cuban Independence—Consular Reports on Cuba May Go in Soon—McKinley's Fear of a Jingo Outbreak

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Congress and the public will not receive officially the report of the Naval Board of Inquiry appointed to investigate the cause of the explosion that wrecked the battleship Maine before Monday next, and possibly not for a day or two later. This statement was authorized by Secretary Long at the close of the Cabinet meeting to-day. The report will be brought to Washington on Thursday evening by Lieutenant-Commander Marix, Judge Advocate of the court, and may be handed to Secretary Long that night. It will be discussed at the regular semi-weekly Cabinet meeting on Friday, and, as it is very voluminous, will be held until Monday or Tuesday by the President that it may be digested thoroughly.

The President has determined finally, it is said by those who talked with him to-day, to send the entire report to Congress, accompanied by a simple letter of transmittal. The present programme can be carried out, the report will be referred to the committee in both the Senate and the House, and a day or two later the President will send to Congress a message on the general Cuban question in which he will announce his plans for ending the war and making peace.

The Republican Senators who are opposed to a declaration of war by Congress, and opposed to armed intervention by the United States, and opposed to any other plan that would make the United States the aggressor against Spain, are the ones who have pressed upon the President almost to the point of success the plan of recognizing the independence of Cuba. This, they say, would not necessarily result in war, and it would be in every way a safer and a wiser course to follow than any other that has been proposed. This sentiment is represented by Mr. Hanna in the Senate, but it has been pointed out to the President by Senators, Cabinet members, and others who have given careful consideration to the subject that there is really less reason for recognizing the independence than for taking any of the other steps proposed. They say that the one fact that there is no tangible Cuban Government in existence would in itself make the recognition of independence indefensible, and that it would complicate the question in many ways.

It was said by a member of the Cabinet to-night that these arguments apparently had no effect, and that the President had practically determined to abandon the plan of recognizing Cuban independence, which was so favorably considered yesterday. There is an alternative plan under consideration, which it is said to-night on high authority is represented by Mr. Hanna in the Senate, and which is the one fact that there is no tangible Cuban Government in existence would in itself make the recognition of independence indefensible, and that it would complicate the question in many ways.

With this message will be submitted the Consular reports so long held by the State Department. Of course it is possible that there may be no opportunity for the promulgation of a decision or the sending of a second message to Congress, because that body may choose to dispose of the report of the Board of Inquiry in the way desired by the President and his advisers in the Senate and House.

The President, indeed, is very fearful that it may not, and the purpose of all the important steps of the report is to determine, if possible, whether the radiating Cuban policy, and all other questions, except that of voting money for the prosecution of a war against Spain. The President is hopeful of avoiding war, but he thinks that the situation to-night is extremely grave and that the greatest danger lies at present in the possibility of what Congress may do.

More than one Senator and more than one Representative has in his pocket now a resolution declaring war, and it is feared that if they are introduced when the report of the Board of Inquiry is submitted there will be a great deal of speaking that it will be impossible to control. The rules of the Senate and House provide that messages from the President shall be referred to the appropriate committee, and so far as the House of Representatives is concerned there is no serious reason to fear that the rules will be ignored. Speaker Reed will be the chair, and he has already given the President the assurance that so far as his power goes regular procedure will be forced strictly and impartially, and that the message will be referred to the committee without debate. Under the rules of the House it is impossible for a resolution to be introduced, and it is hardly probable that any man on either side, however strong a friend of Cuba he may be, will attempt to override the rules in order to make a speech. In the Senate, as is well known, the rules are more honored in the breach than the observance. That is what they are for, and this is where the danger lies.

The President fully realizes the uncertainty of proceedings in the Senate, and he therefore continued his conferences with the leaders to-day. He sent for Gorman, Gray, and Morgan, and other influential Democrats, and appealed to them to assist in the work of creating a sentiment among the Senators of both parties and of all factions that will make it possible to keep in the background the enthusiasm in behalf of the Cuban cause until the report of the Board of Inquiry is disposed of and an opportunity given to inform Spain of the determination of the President and to receive that Government's reply.

The President feels that it is all important now to keep separate the questions growing out of the destruction of the Maine and the policy of the Administration in regard to the general Cuban situation. This afternoon two prolonged conferences were held at the Senate, one in the office of the Vice-President and the other in the room of Senator Aldrich, Chairman of the Committee on Rules. These conferences were attended by the leading Republican Senators who are enlisted in the cause of preventing an outbreak of Cuban adventure in the Senate in advance of the submission of the President's programme. Senators Hanna, Aldrich, Platt of Connecticut, Spooner, and others were present. The second conference lasted until after 7 o'clock. It is not known directly what assurances were given by Mr. Morgan and other Democrats with

WORKING DAY AND NIGHT.

NO OBSESSION OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

NAVY AND WAR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS BEGIN TO SHOW THE EFFECT OF THEIR TIRELESS EXERTS IN PUTTING THE COUNTRY IN SHAPES TO FIGHT—Possibilities of Torpedo Boat Purchase and Construction—One Day's Progress.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The hard work of the last three weeks is beginning to tell on those army and navy officers who are actively engaged in emergency preparations. To-day there was no cessation in the activity. Secretary Long and Secretary Alger, besides attending the Cabinet meeting, held important conferences and disposed of a great deal of the business relating to the efforts to place the country on a war footing. Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, who before the Senate Naval Committee to explain the Navy Department's policy in regard to dry docks, and on his return to his office did a pile of work. Mr. Roosevelt's able constitution is beginning to feel the effects of the constant nervous and physical tension, and, like other officers engaged in emergency preparations, he is determined to keep himself in the best of health.

The directions to Capt. Barker to talk with Admiral Sigsbee on that subject and to report the result to the department were given as a result of information sent here that the Commander-in-Chief of the North Atlantic Squadron was in exceedingly poor condition physically, and would need a change of climate to restore him to health. There was reason to believe that Admiral Sigsbee was determined to resign his command to relieve him from command on account of the fear that such a request might be construed by unthinking persons as a reflection on his courage. For the same reason the Navy Department felt a disinclination to displace the Admiral.

The President, Secretary Long, and the naval administration, generally, have the highest regard for Admiral Sigsbee and a thorough confidence in his courage and ability, and if he had asked for relief there would not have been the slightest question as to the honesty of his motives. But it was realized that the Admiral's disinclination to apply for leave was due to natural motives, and in order to have embarrassed to that officer and the department, it was determined to send Capt. Barker to physical condition was the Admiral what his physical condition was.

Several weeks ago Admiral Sigsbee contracted malarial fever, and a board of medical officers recommended to the Navy Department that two weeks' leave be granted him in which to recuperate. The recommendation was granted promptly, and the Admiral went to Tampa for rest and treatment. He was absent a few days only, however. Returning to Key West with out notice he informed the Navy Department that he had decided not to avail himself of the permission granted, and resumed command of the squadron, relieving Capt. Sampson, commander of the Iowa, and subsequently President of the Maine Court of Inquiry, of that duty. The Navy Department was very poor health that Admiral Sigsbee was in very poor health. These reached the Navy Department in a way that made them worthy of credence, but the department hesitated about doing anything to disturb the Admiral unless on his own request. Finally a suggestion was adopted to send him to Key West, where he could be visited by the Navy Department. This was done, and the Admiral was able to resume his duties.

The War Board has ascertained that torpedo boats can be built in less than six months, instead of four, as at first believed. Ordinary torpedo boats can be constructed in about three months. According to estimates secured by the War Board 100 torpedo craft can be constructed simultaneously at the shipyards of the United States Navy. Contracts for several destroyers will probably be awarded very soon in accordance with the wide authority given the President in the Emergency Appropriation Bill. Commodore W. S. Schley was in consultation with the War Board this afternoon.

Additional proposals have been submitted to the War Board for the construction of fast torpedo boats and torpedo-boat destroyers in large numbers and in comparatively short time. As these types of vessels are the only ones that could be completed quickly, the officials have not considered the question of building larger craft, which would be of great value in the construction of a number of fast torpedo boats for delivery within ninety days. Several firms have agreed to undertake the work. They have promised to have ready for Government use from twenty-five to fifty of the highest speed boats in less than three months from date of contract. At least as many more can be built at other shipyards.

The Gas Engine and Power Company of Morris Dock, New York, now building a fast boat for the navy, made an offer to-day to build the fleet of torpedo boats yet designed for the navy, and willing to undertake the delivery of the craft in short time. The design calls for a boat of 9,000 horse power, a speed of thirty-five knots an hour, and a displacement of 325 tons, to be armed with six 6-pounders and three torpedo tubes. With 9,000 horse power this vessel would have engines more powerful than most of the cruisers of the navy, and a displacement of thirty-five knots would render it the fastest boat of any class in American waters. The offer has been considered tempting and may be accepted, although it would take longer to build the boat than the Government wishes to wait for.

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Although the plan provides only for seafaring men under Government control, and for the navy, it is intended to give a glimpse of the broad as possible in order that the whole force would go out of service when a war was over.

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INSURGENTS FIGHT HARD.

THEY GIVE THE SPANISHES BATTERIES NEAR HAVANA.

More Engagements in Santa Clara Province—Spain Refuses the Autonomist Government—That It Must Pay Its Own Bills—No One Knows Where the Money Will Come From.

HAVANA, March 22, via Key West.—The insurgents are displaying great activity near Havana. Col. Dávalos, who is now in command of the late Gen. Aranguren's forces, has proved to be a worthy successor of that dashing Cuban leader. Just now a report has arrived (and it is confirmed officially by the Spanish) of a very hot engagement near Viñales and Pales, a few miles from this city, between the battalions of Galpierrez, led by Col. Tor, in combination with four Spanish guerrilla detachments, and a strong body of insurgents under Dávalos. According to the Spanish official report, the insurgent forces, besides the band of Dávalos, comprised those of Machado and Camejo and numbered all in all 800 men, all cavalry, who occupied strong positions.

Of course, the Spanish claim a victory. Their report says that after a lively contest the Cubans abandoned their positions, and Col. Tor, following them, defeated them again some miles from the place where the first engagement occurred. As the battle was fought so near Havana the Cubans received news concerning it at the same time that the Spanish official report came to hand, and they say that it was one of the most brilliant victories of their army in this province.

The other fact, acknowledged by all, that an important engagement has been fought to-day in Havana province is enough to prove that Gen. Blanco's reported progress toward pacification here is as false as the famous reports of Weyler to the same effect.

In Santa Clara province the war is also going vigorously on. It is reported to-day, for example, that the battalions of Rey and Albuera had important engagements in the Jibaro, Sancti Spiritus district, with Cuban forces. It is said by the Spaniards that these battalions on land and the gunboat *Satellite* by sea made a combined attack on a Cuban camp near Taveh, defeated the insurgents and seizing documents belonging to the Cuban detachment of Serafin Sanchez. The correspondent is unable to ascertain if these engagements are those described in an official report from Gen. Gomez, just received here, in which he says that his forces captured from the battalions of Rey and Albuera a valuable convoy of provisions and war material.

While all the news of the war is interesting to-day, perhaps the most important, owing to its significance, is the order just received from Madrid by the Colonial Cabinet that after May 1 the Autonomist Government of the island will be required to pay all the expenses of the imperial expenses of Cuba. Up to this time Spain has provided for some, if not all, of the necessities of the local Government, as the Colonial Cabinet came into power without a cent in its treasury, and the country was totally ruined. But now the country is to be left to the Autonomists. Her own burdens are sufficient to ruin her.

How can the Colonial Cabinet levy taxes in the present condition of the island? This problem now confronts the Autonomists, and even if, before May 1, the war is not ended, the Autonomists will have no money to pay the expenses of the island. The utter failure of autonomy will then be clearly seen.

But still the central Government will continue to hold for the payment of the crushing load of debt the paltry revenue of the custom houses, which are now the only sources of income. The Colonial Cabinet will have to levy taxes upon the country occupied by the insurgents, and increase the taxes in the already ruined cities and towns.

SPAIN AND THE MAINE WRECK.

Nagata Will Be in No Hurry to Answer a Demand for an Indemnity.

HAVANA, March 22.—On account of the semi-official declaration made here to-day by the United States Government, that it demands an indemnity from Spain for the disaster to the Maine, Spain will not answer the American note until receiving the report of Señor Peral, Judge Advocate of the Spanish Board of Inquiry, your correspondent called to-day on that Spanish naval officer to inquire when his report will be ready. Señor Peral said that though he was working hard he cannot tell precisely when his report will be ready. He refused to say whether he had already communicated any of his views as to the accident to Madrid.

The Spanish authorities here believe that the report of Señor Peral will be ready on Wednesday.

There is great anxiety in Madrid, according to a despatch received to-day by *La Lucha* over the report of the American Board of Inquiry. Pressure is made on the Government by the radical parties and the Conservatives to compel Spain to pay an indemnity as an acknowledgment of her fault.

Gen. Weyler has definitely withdrawn his candidacy as Deputy to the Cortes from Havana. He says that under the present circumstances the insulting attitude of the United States toward Spain prevents him from participating in political contests, and he desires only that the day may soon come when he may again serve his country on the field of battle.

It is probable that the work of the divers at the Maine wreck will be suspended on account of the death of Mr. Williams from yellow fever. The waters are poisoned by the bodies, about 120 of which remain in the hull of the battleship, and it is feared that to agitate the waters more will cause the outbreak of an epidemic of yellow and putrid fevers.

The divers are deeply concerned over the dangers imposed by further investigation. Louis Berenson of Norway died yesterday from fever on board the tugboat *Ch. Le Roy*, which was placed in a metallic coffin to be sent to-morrow to Key West.

La Discusion praises to-day the charitable work of Mr. Klopsch and says that the American Red Cross Society is contributing \$2,000 daily for the relief of 300,000 starving persons, who would surely die without this assistance.

The same newspaper publishes an official denial from the Governor of Havana, Señor Brun, of a statement made in the *New York Herald*, that Señor Brun proposed to Gen. Blanco the expulsion of the American correspondents from Havana.

Spondents today say a savage attack on the Autonomist party, which is very significant at the present time. *La Lucha* says that the Autonomists in power are not worthy of their own programme, and that, inspired by fright of the ultra Conservatives, they are appointing an officer to go to the Cortes to persons residing in Madrid and without any interests in the island.

Up to this evening the test of the floating dock has not been a great success. The cruiser *Alfonso XII* has not been lifted yet, and there is some trouble with the dock.

SPAIN IS ANXIOUS.

A Feeling at Madrid That Important Developments Are Impending.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.
MADRID, March 22.—There is an ominous reticence in official circles here which indicates the gravity of the situation. There is an uneasy feeling that important developments are impending; indeed, that they are momentarily expected.

The Government, as already cited to THE SUN, has decided that the censorship of press despatches shall be much stricter henceforth, and an order has been issued forbidding the transmission over telegraph lines of any information whatever concerning the movements of the Spanish fleet.

SAYS SAGASTA BLUNDERED.

Our Divers Should Not Have Been Permitted in the Maine Without Special Instructions.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.
MADRID, March 22.—The *Heraldo* charges that the Government made a grave error in allowing American divers to examine the wreck of the Maine without being accompanied by Spanish divers.

The paper reiterates its statement that the American divers used dynamite to enter up the theory that the warship was destroyed by an exterior explosion.

SPANISH REPORT ON THE MAINE.

It Won't Be Made Public Till Spain Receives Our Board's Report.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.
MADRID, March 22.—The Spanish Government has received its report on the blowing up of the American warship Maine, which it is withholding until the report of the United States Board of Inquiry is received. The Spanish report may then be issued in an amended form.

COULD ENGLAND MEDIATE?

Who Might Offer Her Friendly Offices on the Basis of Independence for Cuba.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.
LONDON, March 22.—The *Daily News* will to-morrow editorially propound a question as to whether there is any possibility that, in the present critical stage of the relations between the United States and Spain, a disinterested offer of mediation by Great Britain on the basis of granting independence to Cuba would help toward an understanding.

PURSUING WAR BUSINESS HERE.

Cables Between the Ports and a Telephone to the Head-Quarters for Fuel Store.

Representatives of four wire-making companies met Capt. James Allen of the Signal Corps at Governor's Island yesterday and were invited to tender bids for cables to be laid to connect the fortifications in this harbor. The bid will be opened on Thursday. Other things equal, preference will be given to the bidder who can do the work quickest. There is to be a three-conductor twelve-mile cable between Fort Wadsworth and Fort Hancock at Sandy Hook, and six-conductor cables from Fort Wadsworth to Fort Hamilton, from Fort Schuyler to Fort Stoen, and from Fort Stoen to Fort Stoen.

At Fort Mifflin, where has charge of the work of building the barracks and officers' quarters at Fort Hancock, said yesterday that all the work of the fort is now being pushed forward, and that the barracks will be ready for occupancy about June 1.

At the least the department Quartermaster-General, Lieut.-Col. Amos R. Kimball, bids were opened yesterday for transporting ordnance to the fortifications on Fisher's Island. The contract, which was awarded to the Northern Pacific Transportation Company, is for the transportation of 12-inch guns and four 8-inch guns from Sandy Hook and for the six disappearing carriages for the same. The freight on the guns is \$100,000. There will be \$50,000 of freight in all, and the price is \$5,500 for the whole.

WAR ACTIVITY IN BRIDGEPORT.

Factories Busy Preparing Material for Various Kinds of Work.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., March 22.—The Union Metallic Store Company is making considerable quantities of submarine mines in Penobscot Lake. The explosives are placed in the shells, which hold an equal weight of lead. The mines are sunk to a certain depth and are kept there floating by overcoming the pressure of the water with air which is contained in them. The purpose of the test is to ascertain the relative quantities of air and explosives which may be used. The company is working night and day and will ship a carload of cartridges this afternoon.

The American Ordnance Company is also pushing its orders with the greatest despatch which will enable it to deliver 100,000 cartridges this week. This company has received orders from the Government for a large number of cartridges, and when they are ready to ship.

The Ordnance Company has a large tank in which the torpedoes are tested for their floating and balancing qualities, and when they are ready to ship the torpedoes are sent to the company's testing station at Tiverton, R. I. The test is to ascertain the relative quantities of air and explosives which may be used. The company is working night and day and will ship a carload of cartridges this afternoon.

DEFENCES OF NEW ORLEANS.

Guns for the Forts Below the City Being Put in Position—Torpedo Plans.

NEW ORLEANS, La., March 22.—Major Quinn, United States army engineer in charge of this district, has returned from a trip to the forts below the city. He says that the line of the defense laid down by the Secretary of War is being strictly and rapidly followed. Two 8-inch guns which were sent to Fort St. Philip have been received. They will be put in position below the city. He says that the line of the defense laid down by the Secretary of War is being strictly and rapidly followed. Two 8-inch guns which were sent to Fort St. Philip have been received. They will be put in position below the city. He says that the line of the defense laid down by the Secretary of War is being strictly and rapidly followed. Two 8-inch guns which were sent to Fort St